

TRIBUTE TO SILVIA PINAL

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the 1999 "Mr. Amigo," Silvia Pinal, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries. Their selection honors a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to international solidarity and goodwill at the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities will last for several days; this year they will be February 23–27 and will include parades and appearances by Ms. Pinal. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The U.S.-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future. The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen.

The 1999 Mr. Amigo, Ms. Pinal, has a career in film, television and music, and, recently, in public service, serving as a Senator for District 27 in Mexico City since 1998. She is also a philanthropist and a champion of women's rights. Born in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, she considered her mother her strongest supporter. Her father, who served in the military, was also a journalist in both Mexico and the United States, and Mayor of Tequisquiapan, Quertaro, Mexico.

She considers her father her role model based on his political and community work. She studied at the Bellas Artes Academy, beginning with a career in radio and eventually appearing in over 100 feature films. She starred in such international favorites as "Mame," "Que Tal Dolly," and "Gypsy."

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Silvia Pinal, the 1999 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING JIM PATTI, A FRIEND
TO ALL**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a man that will be greatly missed. Jim Patti touched many people's lives and was a friend to all. He passed away at the age of 49 on January 26, 2000.

Jim's record of friendship began as early as anyone can remember him. When he was in grade school, his best friend went to a different school. They were both very happy when they ended up in the same high school. Jim was very active on the decorating committee for all of the dances sponsored by the high school. Jim enjoyed drawing and he would design all the decorations.

Working at the family restaurant, Patti's Restaurant, was always a part of Jim's life. He started working at the family-owned business by the time he was seven years old. He was a busboy and a story-teller. He loved people and he would always remember the stories to tell about them. He also met his wife, Judy, at the restaurant. Eventually Jim and Judy took over ownership of the restaurant and remodeled it several times. They also owned J. Patti Construction.

Jim also loved sports, especially Colorado sports. From the University of Colorado Buffaloes to the Denver Broncos, Jim was always ready to get together to watch the game. Having a good time was one of Jim's fortes. He enjoyed having his family and friends. Even though the family was large, there was always enough love to go around.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute to Jim Patti, the "trunk of the family tree". He was a great friend to all and loved life to the fullest.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MICHAEL
FARRELL AND JUDGE LELAND B.
HARRIS**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Judge Michael Farrell and Judge Leland B. Harris, who will be honored on February 17, 2000, by the San Fernando Bar Association (SFVBA). Judge Farrell will be named the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Judge of the Year and Judge Harris will be presented with a Special Recognition Award.

Judge Farrell has enjoyed a long and distinguished judicial career. He currently serves as the Supervising Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court Northwest District. He was elevated to this position in 1989, after being appointed to the Municipal Court Bench in 1986 by former Governor Deukmejian. Prior to that,

he served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court Trustee, and was an attorney for the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, Global Marine, Inc., and the law firms Early, Maslach, Foran & Williams; Hunt & Finn; and his brother's firm Coleman & Farrell.

In addition to his numerous and substantial judicial responsibilities, Judge Farrell has been working with the SFVBA, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the Monroe High School magnet program to start a pilot self-help program. The program will provide free legal information and legal services to the public. He has also taken an active role in seeking Los Angeles County funds to repair the damage to his courthouse caused by the Northridge Earthquake.

Judge Harris will be honored for his dedicated service and work with the Calabasas Teen Court Program—a program run by teens, and for teens that is designed to interrupt developing patterns of criminal behavior, promote self-esteem and provide motivation for self improvement and a healthy attitude toward authority.

Judge Harris graduated from San Fernando Valley State College (now Cal State Northridge) and the University of San Diego School of Law. He was appointed to the Municipal Court by former Governor Deukmejian in 1991. Prior to this appointment he served as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, including many years at the San Fernando Court. During this time, many of his accomplishments were in the area of nursing home reform. He was instrumental in changing a section of the penal code in 1986 to expedite the testimony of elderly crime victims and witnesses.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join with us in saluting both Judge Farrell and Judge Harris for their outstanding achievements, and to congratulate them for receiving the prestigious honors granted them by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 6, the "Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 2000," and I urge that we continue to work toward enactment of bipartisan legislation that includes sensible tax relief and progress on reducing the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I have not been shy in expressing the need for debt reduction. I stand squarely behind conservative economists, such as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, in calling for debt reduction as the highest priority for managing our surplus. I think tax cuts are an important way of providing relief for working Americans, but reducing the debt is also essential for improving the economic well-being of all Americans. Reducing the national debt lowers interest rates on everything from student loans to mortgages to credit cards to business loans. It provides financial relief to a broad range of people without the need for a large bureaucracy at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to administer and enforce the financial relief, as tax cuts require.